

What is claimed is:

1. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle comprising:

a pivot joint having a first member pivotally engaging a second member;

first and second spring brackets being attached to one side of the pivot joint, the first

5 spring bracket attaching to the first member, and the second spring bracket attaching to the second member;

a spring being located between the first and second spring brackets and attached thereof;

and

wherein the pivot joint pivots vertically.

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2. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein the pivot joint further comprises:

pivot openings in the first and second members; and

a pivot pin extending through the pivot openings.

15 3. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 2, further comprising:

a pivot lock; and

wherein the pivot lock temporarily prevents the pivot joint from pivoting.

4. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, wherein the pivot lock further comprises:

20 gauge openings in the first and second members; and

a gauge pin inserted through the gauge openings.

5. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, wherein the spring is a mechanical spring.

25 6. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, wherein the spring is a compressible fluid spring.

7. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 6, further comprising:

a shock absorber attached to the first and second members opposite the spring.

5 8. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, further comprising:

a hitch assembly fastened to a first end of the pivot joint.

9. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 8, further comprising:

a receiver matingly engaging the pivot joint at a second end opposite the hitch assembly.

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10. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle comprising:

a first member having a tongue;

a second member having a slot;

a pivot joint having the slot pivotally engaging the tongue;

15 a spring attaching to the first member and the second member; and

wherein the pivot joint pivots vertically.

11. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 10, further comprising:

a bar projecting transversely from the tongue.

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12. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 10, further comprising:

pivot openings in the tongue and the second member; and

a pivot pin extending through the pivot openings.

25 13. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 12, further comprising:

a pivot lock; and

wherein the pivot lock temporarily prevents the pivot joint from pivoting.

14. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13, wherein the pivot lock further comprises:

5 gauge openings in the tongue and second member; and

a gauge pin inserted through the gauge openings.

15. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13, wherein the spring is a mechanical spring.

10 16. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13, wherein the spring is a compressible fluid spring.

17. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 16, further comprising:

a shock absorber attached to the first member and the second member opposite the

15 compressible fluid spring.

18. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13, further comprising:

a hitch assembly fastened to a first end of the pivot joint.

20 19. A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 18, further comprising:

a receiver matingly engaging a second end of the pivot joint opposite the hitch assembly.